

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00996 151556Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 151527Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9291

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 00996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR PINT PO

SUBJ: CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY GENERAL CALVET DE MAGALHAES

SUMMARY: MEETING WITH SECGEN FONMIN CALVET DE LAGALHAES
THIS MORNING AT MY REQUEST I ADVISED HIM THAT LONG-
ARRANGED MARCH 18 DINNER FOR ME TO MEET COSTA GOMES
AND SPINOLA WOULD BE CANCELLED BUT I WANTED HIM TO
UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT THIS DID NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE
IN AMERICAN POLICY ON SELF-DETERMINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOME WEEKS AGO AS NORMAL PART OF PROGRAM FOR
NEW AMBASSADOR DATT BLACKLEY ISSUED INVITATIONS INFORMAL
DINNER AT HIS HOUSE FOR ME TO MEET COSTA GOMES AND
SPINOLA THEN THE TWO TOP GOP MILITARY OFFICERS. ONLY
OTHER GUESTS DCM AND GENERAL IVO FERREIRA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES. WIVES INCLUDED. TO THIS MOMENT ALL
INVITEES HAVE ACCEPTED AND NO ACCEPTANCES REVOKED.

2. LATE THIS MORNING AT MY REQUEST I MET WITH SECGEN
FONMIN CALVET. I STARTED BY SAYING I
AND MY ADVISORS THOUGHT THIS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR
US TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE IN CONNECTION CURRENT EVENTS
IN GOP AND THAT DELICATE SITUATION HAD ARISEN OF
WHICH I WANTED ADVISE HIM AND HE COULD COMMENT OR NOT
AS HE CHOSE. I THEN TOLD HIM FACTS STATED ABOVE AND
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00996 151556Z

SAID WE INTENDED TO HAVE DATT CANCEL MONDAY DINNER

SINCE WE ANTICIPATED THAT WHATEVER THE FACTS AND WHATEVER WAS SAID, SUCH A DINNER AT THIS TIME WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS US SUPPORT OF COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA. I SAID PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS TO BE SURE THAT GOP WOULD NOT DRAW OPPOSITE CONCLUSION AND THINK THAT CANCELLATION OF DINNER WAS A SIGNAL OF ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY IN FAVOR AFRICAN SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. CALVET ASKED WHO HAD ISSUED THE INVITATIONS. I SAID DATT AS WAS NORMAL WHEN MILITARY ATTACHES INTRODUCED AMBASSADOR TO THEIR PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS. HE SAID DINNER MUST CERTAINLY BE CANCELLED OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS WOULD BE RAMPANT. HE ALSO SAID METHOD SEEMED SIMPLE TO HIM. DINNER HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR ME TO MEET CHIEF OF STAFF AND VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES AND COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA ARE NO LONGER IN THOSE POSITIONS. HE SAID WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE COURTEOUSLY WITH COSTA GOMES AND SPINOLA ON THIS BASIS AND I SAID WE WERE ALREADY INTENDING TO DO SO. (FYI: DATT IS NOW TRYING TO SEE THEM BOTH PERSONALLY END FYI).

4. CALVET EXPRESSED APPRECIATION MY VISIT AND VOLUNTEERED WE SHOULD INVITE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF VERY PROMPTLY WHICH I SAID WE OF COURSE INTENDED TO DO. UNABLE RESTRAIN MY CURIOSITY I SAID I ASSUMED HOWEVER THAT THIS MEANT ONLY ONE INVITATION AND NOT TWO. CALVET AGREED SAYING THAT VICE CHIEF JOB HAD BEEN CREATED FOR SPINOLA AND THAT HE SAW NO NEED TO FILL VACANCY UNLESS THEY WERE RUNNING OUT OF JOBS FOR GENERALS.

5. COMMENT: I CAREFULLY CONFRONTED CALVET WITH DECISION ALREADY REACHED AND LEFT IT OPEN TO HIM TO WITHHOLD ANY COMMENT EXCEPT THAT HE GOT MY MESSAGE. HIS VOLUNTEERED COMMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT DINNER IF HELD WOULD HAVE BEEN A SCANDAL WITHIN GOP. END COMMENT.

SCOTT

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